Christianity

- Christianity is a monotheistic religion and is the world's biggest religion with over 2 billion followers worldwide.
- Monotheistic means a belief in one god (usually referred to as God).
- Believe in a Trinity:
  - God the Father (God)
  - God the Son (Jesus)
  - God the Holy Spirit
Key Beliefs

- Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ who lived in the Holy Land (modern day Israel) 2,000 years ago. Christians also believe that Jesus was the messiah (savior) promised in the Old Testament of the Bible.

- Believe that Jesus is the son of God. Christians also believe that God sent Jesus to earth to save humans from sin, through his sacrifice (crucifixion), and through his resurrection three days later.

The Shield of the Trinity of traditional Western Christian symbolism.
Key Beliefs (cont.)

- Christians believe in one baptism into the Christian faith (either as a child or as an adult, depending on the denomination).

- The Eucharist, also known as a communion meal in some churches, is central to the church, and is thought to bring unity amongst Christians.

- Christians believe in a Day of Judgment, where people will be judged to either go to heaven or hell.

The Eucharist, meant to represent the body (bread) and blood (wine) of Christ, following instructions from the Last Supper.
There are approximately 2.1 billion Christians worldwide, with approximately 247 million Americans that refer to themselves as Christians.
The Christian holy book is the Bible, which consists of an Old Testament and a New Testament.

The Old Testament is the original Hebrew Bible (Torah), the sacred scriptures of the Jewish faith, written at different times between about 1200 and 165 BC. The New Testament books were written by Christians in the first century AD.
Worship Services

- Christians worship at a church, with the holy day being on Sunday (a departure from Judaism, where the holy day is on Saturday).

- Christian leaders go by different titles, depending on the type of church. Some common titles are:
  - Preacher/Minister
  - Priest
Christians believe that they communicate with God directly through prayer.

The Christian religion has a number of important holidays. Two of the most important are:

- Christmas – A Christian holy day that marks the birth of Jesus.
- Easter – Celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion.
Christianity is divided into numerous sects or denominations. Three of the largest are:

- Catholic
- Protestant
- Lutheran